



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
December 6, 2022

Regional Coalition & Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Updates

Regional Coalition Update

Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast

For more information, please contact: Colleen Condon, colleen@lilaccityelc.com

No updates to share at this time.

Investing in Children Coalition: Central

For more information, please contact: Lindsay Bowsell, lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org or Marina Medrano, marinam@yakimavalleycf.org

No updates to share at this time.

King County

For more information, please contact: Laurie Bohm, bohml@childcare.org

We would like to introduce King County Early Learning Coalition's (KCELC) new Policy and Advocacy Learning Network Lead, Jaymie McLaughlin. Jaymie has several years of experience working across the educational field, including early learning, school-age youth, and after-school camps. Currently, she is the Mobilization Coordinator at Child Care Resources and assists developing advocacy within Pierce and King County. She states, "being able to use my voice to speak where others cannot, to support when a lift is needed, and to build up when confidence is low, has been my most exciting career journey so far." KCELC is excited to have Jaymie assist the collective and help take steps to support King County's early childhood efforts and needs for the community.

North Central

For more information please contact: Nancy Spurgeon, nspurgeon49@gmail.com

No updates to share at this time.

Northwest

For more information please contact: Linden Obel, linden@nwelcoalition.org

Regional Highlights

- **Budget setting and role planning:** We are amidst setting our budget for January through June of 2023 with funds received through the WCFC budget proviso. These funds will be used for regional and county coalition coordination.
- **Help Me Grow strategic planning process:** As a HMG Sub-Affiliate and WCFC regional coalition, we

are participating in listening sessions to inform the direction of the Help Me Grow system over the next five years.

- **State of the Children story gathering and data sharing:** As one of the ten regions represented in the State of the Children reports, we are working to gather stories from providers and families that share about community strength in enhancing solutions to accessing equitable child care in our region. Stories aim to highlight both barriers and challenges as well as assets and successes.
- **Dinner and Dialogue:** We are working with our partner at the ESD to secure funds for a spring Dinner and Dialogue focused on critical early learning topics. We hope these conversations will bring together early learning providers, K-12 administrators, community members, and families.
- **Community Asset Mapping:** Working with consultants from Cardea Services, San Juan County and Island County early learning coalitions are moving forward with a community asset mapping initiative to inform updates to existing resource directories; build awareness among providers and families about community resources and how to engage with them; identify community strengths and areas of opportunity; and strengthen partnerships across communities.
- **Family and community outreach, equity, and advocacy:** Across the counties, local early learning coalitions have hosted family and provider events, hosted local fundraisers, and begun conversations around advocacy priorities, including wage equity.

Current and Ongoing Priorities

- Building regional and county-level partnerships to explore, design, implement, and support continuous quality improvement of resource system navigation and access through a community-driven, 'no wrong door' approach.
- Developing an advocacy agenda and securing flexible funding for regional coordination and capacity-building.

NWELC strives to establish a coalition infrastructure that is beneficial to all counties, optimizes unique strengths and assets, reduces inequities, and supports children, families, providers, and communities.

Peninsula Early Learning Coalition

For more information, please contact: Marlaina Simmons, marlaina.pecc@gmail.com and Elisia Anderson, elisiaf_fstep@olypen.com

No updates to share at this time.

Pierce County Early Childhood Network

For more information please contact: McKinley McPheeters, mckinleym@first5fundamentals.org

Our website has launched <https://www.pcecn.org> and will continue to be built out with more information!

We're also excited that the Child Care Capacity Initiative Application for Cohort A has launched for Pierce County child care providers. PDF

link: <https://first5fundamentals.box.com/s/fv891qh2acsgpdwbndipmmbbn31vc> or online form to apply here: <https://form.jotform.com/223126932014042>

Southeast

For more information, please contact: Matt Bona, mbona@esd123.org

Benton Franklin Early Learning Alliance – Nothing to report at this time.

Walla Walla Early Learning Coalition – Nothing to report at this time.

Asotin County Early Learning Coalition – Lewis & Clark Early Childhood program held their monthly meeting and elected a new executive director and a new program director. Asotin ELC worked with Asotin County Library and Lincoln Middle School in Clarkston to collect books and promote 1000 books for kids ages 0-5. The Twin County United Way is sponsoring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and is looking at READY for Kindergarten.

Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

For more information please contact: Debbie Ham, Debbie.ham@selfwa.org

We've been working with WCFC and WASTEM on the State of Our Children report which is almost complete. We are thrilled to participate in this statewide effort and look forward to the report being completed soon.

In January we will be working with a consultant from Opportunities Exchange to assist with the expansion of a Shared Services Network in our region. We will complete our strategic planning process by May of 2023.

We are contracting with PointNorth located in Vancouver, to assist with the convening, planning and implementation of a Children's Council in Clark County. More to come.

Visions for Early Learning, West Central

For more information, please contact: Sheila Kavanaugh, kav.consulting231@gmail.com

The region experienced a change in leadership in September at regional lead position. Emily Wilson-Edge stepped down after several years serving as regional lead and Sheila Kavanaugh (previously VEL's Communication Lead) is serving as interim regional lead between now and the end of December. VEL also had discussions regarding its leadership, governance, and organizational structure as the coalition worked to submit a budget to WCFC for funding budgeting timeline: January 2023 - June 2023).

Resource Navigation and Access: VEL is working with Help Me Grow/Within Reach to collaborate in efforts to continue the coordinated access/resource navigation activities to enhance the accessibility of reliable local resources for families.

Family Voice: Local County coalitions are preparing to host and/or table existing community family engagement events this winter.

Grays Harbor Early Learning (GHLE) coalition is hosting a series of 4 in-person parenting classes in different locations across the county. The first two already held in Lake Quinalt and Aberdeen were very successful.

Policy and Advocacy: With the release of WCFC's Legislative one-pager and the dates scheduled for Advocacy Week, VEL is underway with creating personalized materials for each local county coalition as well beginning the conversations about the most effective way to share our impact with legislators.

Community Engagement: Local coalitions are also reporting an increase in new members across the board. Networks have been using a community building approach to increase engagement with members by highlighting member organizations during their general membership meetings, in their newsletters, and on Facebook.

WCFC State Updates

For more information please contact: Rachel Hall, WCFC State Lead, rachelh@first5fundamentals.org

WCFC Network Infrastructure Updates

The WCFC Regional Leads voted to approve the addition of a Child Care Voice Learning Network to the statewide infrastructure. Together with WCFC reps, childcare providers, CCA coaches, and other stakeholders, the Child Care Voice Learning Network is intended to create a safe and engaging environment for childcare providers.

Additionally, the WCFC network warmly welcomed some new individuals to the statewide leadership. The Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance experienced a transition in their Leadership. The Region is now co-lead by Katie Maisch from Community Minded Enterprise, and Colleen Condon from Lilac City Early Learning Center. Visions for Early Learning also experienced a transition, and Sheila Kavanaugh is the new Regional Lead.

Pathwaves WA Policy Fellowship

WCFC was selected as a placement site for the [Pathwaves WA](#) Policy Fellowship program. We are very excited to announce that Maya Ewings is the new WCFC Policy Fellow! Maya joined the WCFC Network in October!

Legislative Session 2023

WCFC Network partners are hard at work preparing for the 2023 legislative session. WCFC will be making a \$3.6M budget request of the legislature to sustain the WCFC infrastructure across Washington state.

The WCFC Advocacy Week is scheduled for January 30 – February 3. Stay tuned for more information including the agenda of events and opportunities to participate.

WA State Anchor Partner – Vroom

WCFC was awarded a 3-year grant by the Bezos Family Foundation to become the Washington State Anchor Partner for Vroom. WCFC will utilize our existing infrastructure to promote Vroom to health providers and families in hard-to-reach communities. More information including outreach strategies and target communities available in the coming months.

WCFC Learning Networks – Join us!

There are six statewide Washington Communities for Children Learning Networks. The purpose of these teams is to foster learning and connections across the state, with particular focus in each of the component areas below. Participation is open to anyone, including state and local partners who are interested in shared learning and activities. For meeting schedules, and to get in touch with Learning Network leads, please visit our website at washingtoncfc.org/learning-networks.

- Data
- Equity
- Family Voice
- Health Provider Voice
- Policy & Advocacy
- Resource Navigation & Access